

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 14th MARCH 1998

1. Apologies for absence

Denis Smith & Nikki Timbrell.

2. Accuracy of minutes for meeting held 31-1-98

Item 6. should read Coarse fishing.

Item 8. line 3 should read BMIF, IWA and RYA.

Item 9. should read Reciprocal licensing.

line 3 should read Ancholme.

Second paragraph should read: EA is looking into the possibility of providing, for the issuing of licences, one central office with one phone number and one address. Therefore all licensing requirements would be under one roof.

Item 11. paragraph 6 should read John Redmond.

Item 12. line 7 members should read user reps.

Item 13. Mr Mcgarvey of the EA should read BW.

Item 14. second paragraph should be: David Smith is to attend W & B trailboat rally. Peter Lea, Nigel and Christine are covering Pelsall and Nottingham and relieving at Braunston. Salford is covered and Roger is going to the Wendover rally.

Item 17 should read Geoff Rogerson.

Item 18 paragraph 6 should read BW not Roger Herrington.

The minutes were then signed as correct.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 31-1-98

BW Trust :- At the Parliamentary Waterways Group meeting, Angela Eagle stated that full privatisation is not an option and the status quo is not satisfactory. NABO has suggested looking at the Defence Trading Fund and the Highways Dept. as alternative proposals to the trust. No further details of any proposals will be released until all the alternatives have been studied by the DETR.

Coarse fishing :- The EA had postponed the abolition of the closed season for a year to consider the responses in more detail. The impact on birds and other wild life hadn't been fully considered. However the measure would be likely to be brought in next year.

BW code for anglers. The latest draft is being circulated to user groups.

Stourport :- Nikki has received a closure notice for March for work being done. Denis has notified English Heritage who are reported to be unhappy. Denis has also written to the Council complaining that they had not been firm enough with BW. Council thanked Denis.

BW's National User Group meetings:- It was agreed at the last NINF meeting that user groups would write to BW in support of the inclusion in the NUG meetings of all the organisations NINF had put forward last year. It was suggested that NUG meetings had too many BW people at them.

Peter Foster stated that BW wanted to change the structure of his local user group meetings to discuss strategy and not local issues. Peter Foster to take this up with the regional manager and if no success Peter Lea to take it up with Dr Fletcher.

Action Peter Foster & Peter Lea

4. The Junk

Thanks to RBOA and IWA BW's plans had been junked. RBOA is to go to the Ombudsman over BW's failure to consult over its plans, with NABO's support but not IWA's. Wonderful result for a very short campaign. Many thanks Penny.

5. EC plans for tax on energy products and fuel

Neil Edward's letter to the NTA committee was circulated. The letter is basically

correct except that the draft EC Directive does set minimum duty levels on all fuels and would therefore override the present derogation which permits exemption for red diesel. It was agreed to start build up early political pressure in Brussels, by writing to MEP's to point out the problems in implementing this in Britain. It is uneconomical and impossible to monitor due in part to the small amounts of diesel used by some boaters and the length of time the red dye lingers. Also there is the safety angle, petrol engines are cheaper to buy than diesel but more dangerous.

Penny has a list of MEPs and will give this to Wendy and Peter. **Action Penny**
Wendy is to publish the list in NABO News with an article urging all members to write. Individual letters rather than copies of a master would get maximum effect. **Action Wendy**

6. Channel dimensions response

Peter Lea circulated a rough draft for our perusal. NABO is in line with NINF proposals. Penny suggested some changes to the wording to make it stronger. Peter Lea made notes of the changes. Nigel gave us a lecture on the history of dredging. No mention has been made of BW continuing its help to free deep draughted boats when they get stuck.

Silting is causing problems on the Trent where water flow is increasing to above the speed limit.

Philip Ogden is to prepare a list of channel dimensions to go as an appendix to NABO's response. Peter and Nigel will finalise the response. **Action Philip, Nigel, Peter**

7. Council work load and priorities

John has received 9 replies to his questionnaire. Four people still to respond.. Also some members need to provide a wider view of what they do rather than just what they perceive as their job. Replies needed within 10 days. **Action Council**

John's analysis so far shows that council is spending 30% of its time on administration, 3% on campaigning, 3% on recruiting and 7% on lobbying.

John is to circulate info. for us to study before the next meeting to enable us to come prepared with ideas. **Action John**

Peter Lea was concerned that we are not working as effectively as we should. Geoff Rogerson stated that we are disproportionately effective in regard to our small membership.

8. Rallies and marketing

Christine asked us to sponsor Day Star again this year. This was agreed.

It was agreed to pay for the stand at Salford Quays if this meant that we could choose our site. Christine has negotiated a position opposite the beer tent. Sue to see if she can negotiate the same position free of charge. **Action Sue**

Christine to try to get us free adverts in the waterway mags. **Action Christine**

Our mission statement needs to be published in NABO News. **Action Wendy**

NABO's advertising policy: Wendy, Christine and Andrew to liaise.

Action Wendy, Christine and Andrew

TEE SHIRTS /SWEATSHIRTS Andrew has found two firms willing to print one-offs. He is to choose the best, and decide on colour choices. The stand needs two for display.

Action Andrew

Boatyards need to be written to and asked to display our membership leaflets. Roger has a list and draft letter but didn't have time to do the exercise. Wendy volunteered to do it. **Action Wendy**

Aylesbury Canal Society need 500 leaflets to give visiting boaters. **Action Peter**

Christine is to give a presentation on rallies for the next meeting. **Action Christine**

9. National meetings

Peter Lea attended the Parliamentary Waterways Group meeting where Angela Eagle spoke about the BW Trust proposals. Peter has also had a long talk with Paul

Wagstaffe and expects to have further meetings with him on a regular basis.

Penny is now co-chairman of NINF. Congratulations Penny.

10. Other meetings and developments

Stephen was given an IWA draft response to the EA's LEAP for the river Wey and asked to draft a response on behalf of NABO. **Action Stephen**

The river Wey rep, Roy de la Haye, is giving up boating as his boat failed the BSS.

A volunteer is needed to analyse the Anglian Waterway Regeneration Study and the BW's management proposals for the river Nene and Great Ouse and to help formulate NABO's response. Mike Smith or GOBA is to be asked. **Action Stephen**

BW have issued amended short term licence proposals for consultation. These include a proposal for one day licences for trailboats, to be available on the day of issue only, and charges for the use of Sharpness and Marsh locks. Peter to respond for NABO.

Action Peter

The Severn Estuary Boating Ass'n is holding an inaugural meeting on 15th March.

Merry Hill will be reopened at the end of March.

Geof R. reported that BW's policy on mooring on the K & Ais to be softened thanks to his intervention. Micheal Goodenough has suggested a continuous cruising licence at 3 times the current licence. Penny said that moving short distances when continuously cruising is perfectly legal.

Geof B. brought to our attention Mr R.F.Davies who is in dispute with BW about the mooring matrix in Wigan. It was suggested that Geof spoke to the BW manager about the complaint to establish how the manager had dealt with it. **Action Geof B**

Penny to ask for up to date copy of mooring matrix charges. **Action Penny**

It was agreed to take up disabled moorings as a worthwhile NABO issue. Penny is to contact the Field Fare Trust. Also to write to Paul Wagstaff pointing out BW areas that don't comply and asking for a disabled audit. Copies to Angela Eagle, the 3 waterway mags. and the disabled MP. **Action Penny and Peter**

Geof R. to provide a photo of his disabled friend on his boat. **Action Geof R**

11. Finance

Andrew explained the figures given to us. £5000 is now being paid by standing orders. Wendy queried the cost of the newsletter as it is being sent to the printer in a different format and so printing costs should be lower.

A cheque sent to the HNBOC for books has not been cleared.

12. Membership

Membership has held up well this winter, not shown its usual dip. NABO has lost 1000 members since starting for various reasons. We have a number of time share members.

NABO News to remind people to send in their BSS questionnaires, only 440 members have replied so far. **Action Wendy**

There was a critical letter in April's Canal & Riverboat about NABO and the BSS. Nigel to reply. **Action Nigel**

13. Press Matters

Wendy is to liaise with Ruth Field over newsletter distribution. Copies are to be sent by 1st class post to Peter, Nigel and Wendy before the bulk is sent out so that they can check for errors.

Alex Prowse and Nancy Larcome^b are to provide drawings. They should be thanked.

Wendy reported that she was short of articles for this issue. Deadline dates are to be printed in the newsletter. **Action Wendy**

14. AOB

The reports on the Chesterfield Canal locks width problem have been over hyped. There is a problem with parts of two locks only, Ian White is to iron these out.

Micheal Babbidge of Taunton has offered his help. **Action Christine**

Polo shirts and sweatshirts are to be provided in navy, red, grey and bottle green, with a simple logo. Penny is to provide the logo for the tee shirts asap. **Action Penny**

Wendy is to draw up a simple order form for them. **Action Wendy**

Neil Walker is still a bank signatory, this is to be changed to Sue. **Action Andrew**

Pete Foster will liaise with Boston Motor Yacht Club over problems with the BSS ventilation requirements and safety at sea. Nigel to assist. **Action Pete F & Nigel**

Nigel is monitoring the current problems associated with gas safety inspections. He will advise all members when a sensible solution to the present impasse is reached.

Action Nigel

Pete F. quoted figures on the BSS failure rates. It was suggested that Wendy published these.

Action Wendy

The Annual General Meeting will be at Gloucester Boat Museum on 14th November 11am-4pm. A new venue will have to be chosen for the 1999 AGM as the museum at Nottingham is closing in April 1999.

